

Jessica Rudman

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# Idyll

*for Contralto and Piano*

with Text by Siegfried Sassoon

2019

ca. 3:30

# Idyll

for Contralto and Piano

## Vocal Range

G3-D5

## Program Notes

*Idyll* was written for bass-baritone Brandon Coleman as part of The American Opera Project's Composers & the Voice program, where it was workshopped in fall 2019 and premiered virtually in fall 2020. The author of the text, Siegfried Sassoon, is best known for his war poetry. Yet, *Idyll* does not deal specifically with war. Rather, it uses pastoral imagery to capture the narrator's intense desire to be reunited with a loved one who has passed on. The identity of this longed for person is left unspecified—perhaps a family member or friend, perhaps a war companion, perhaps his first love. That vagueness and the subdued tone of the poem create a powerful, poignant sense of loss and desire, which inspired the understated musical setting.

## Text

In the grey summer garden I shall find you  
With day-break and the morning hills behind you.  
There will be rain-wet roses; stir of wings;  
And down the wood a thrush that wakes and sings.  
Not from the past you'll come, but from that deep  
Where beauty murmurs to the soul asleep:  
And I shall know the sense of life re-born  
From dreams into the mystery of morn  
Where gloom and brightness meet. And standing there  
Till that calm song is done, at last we'll share  
The league-spread, quiring symphonies that are  
Joy in the world, and peace, and dawn's one star.

- published in *Picture-Show* (1920)

## Contact Information

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# Idyll

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

**Expressively and with rubato** ca. ♩=60

*p intimate*

In the grey sum-mer

*p warmly*

Ped.

gar - den I shall find you With day-break and the morn-ing hills be -

hind you. There will be rain-wet ros - es; stir of

*mp* *mf warmly* *poco accel.*

*mp* *mf* *poco accel.*

11 **poco rit.** **a tempo**

wings; And down the wood a thrush that wakes and sings.

**poco rit.** **a tempo**

**poco rit.** **16 a tempo** *p with longing*

Not from the past you'll

**poco rit.** **16 a tempo**

*p*

**poco accel.**

17

come, but from that deep Where beau - ty mur murs to the

**poco accel.**

20 *mp*

soul a - sleep: \_\_\_\_\_ And I shall know the sense of life re

*mp*

ca. ♩=72 *mf*

23

born From dreams in-to the mys - ter-y of morn Where

ca. ♩=72 *mf*

26

gloom and bright - ness meet. And stand-ing there Till that calm song is

26

29 ***f***

done, at last we'll share the league-spread, quir - ing

31 ***ff*** *passionately* **poco rit. .**

sym - pho - nies that are Joy in the world, and\_

34 ***f***

peace, and dawn's one star.

**37** a tempo (♩=72)

*mf* reflective

rit. al fine

41 *mp*

44 *p*

47 *pp*